

Start Here

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BA-129

AND

BA-110

BALTIMORE COUNTY LANDMARKS PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC a. MERRY MEADOWS  
b. PARTNERSHIP

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

a. 14300 Cooper Road; b. 14302 Cooper Road 3rd Councilmanic District

CITY, TOWN

Phoenix

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd Congressional District

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore County

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Richard M. and Virginia Patterson

666-2288 (h)  
Telephone #: 539-2717 (o)

STREET & NUMBER

14300 Cooper Road

CITY, TOWN

Phoenix

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21152

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. County Courts Building

Liber #: EHK JR. 5972 | 6357

Folio #: 247 | 34

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

MHT Inventory No. BA 109 and BA 110

DATE

1965—and on-going

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS 21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

# 7 DESCRIPTION

B4-109 B4-110  
MERRY MEADOWS & PARTNERSHIP

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT a, b	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE a
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED a, b	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED b DATE <u>1963</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

B4-109 a. Merry Meadows is at first glance a vernacular style, two-story, three-bay wide, log, frame, and clapboard house, gable-roofed, with a one-bay, hip-roofed entrance portico and inside end-chimneys. The clapboarding is laid over chestnut logs. There are some good architectural features, including a centrally located front door with transom and sidelights, and twin sash windows in the center bay of the second story, centered over the porch. Eave returns are very heavy on the main block. This main block contains interior woodwork elements seen in Victorian era houses, but it is readily apparent that this wing, probably the \$600 worth of "additional improvements" discovered by the tax assessor in 1865, was tacked onto the structure (found on the 1850 county map) to create an L-shaped layout.

The older section contains a large fireplace probably designed for both warmth and cooking. Behind the fireplace is a narrow stairway, typical of those found in 18th century houses; these stairs lead to a low-ceilinged bedroom. The bedroom ceiling has three surfaces, forming a trapezoidal cross-section, exactly like the Onion family house near Franklinville and Bradshaw. The stairway is similar to both the Onion House and the Scott-Andrew-Garrison house near Carroll Island Road.

The expansion made in 1967 added a traditional, two-story frame house section at the rear connected to the older section by a breezeway. The new wing has its own internal stairway.

In the Victorian part of the house, woodwork includes square corner blocks on some door frames and bull's-eye corner blocks combined with fluted frames on others. The c. 1863 part of the house contains two small fireplaces, one of which had been closed up to connect a heating stove.

West of the house is a small, gable-roofed log and chink smokehouse with primitive roof timbers made of half-logs. The vertical board door is hung on long strap-iron hinges. This building was Mr. Cooper's first private museum of Americana.

B4-110 b. Partnership, the brick, gambrel-roofed house moved from Howard County, is three bays wide with a central entrance, three bays wide, two stories high, plus low attic. There are two dormers on each facade, an inside end-chimney at the west end. In restoring this house in 1963, Mr. Cooper's contractor restored the gambrel-roof lines indicated by telltale marks in the brickwork, evident many years after converting the house to a gable-roofed form. Windows in the main facade are 9-over-9 double-hung sash types. On the ends of the house, there are full sash windows on the east (or right-hand) end to light the second story. On the west end (or

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued)

left-hand) end, there are no second-story windows, but one double-hung sash window at the southwest corner, a plain door at the northwest corner.

The main story contains two compartments: 1. The great room, and 2. the cell, corresponding to a living room-kitchen combination and a dining area. Each room has a brick fireplace. The only decorations are plain chair rails and baseboards. There are three rooms upstairs with a small attic space above. The top level is lighted by small one-over-one windows, two at each end.

The rosy red brick was probably burned on-site in Anne Arundel County at the first location of this house; some bricks were found with animal footprints baked into them.

Cornices and chair rails were modeled on surviving fragments found in the house in 1963. Paint selection was based on flakes found on the wooden members, blue inside, red outside.

Architects from Williamsburg and the Maryland Historical Trust advised the Coopers during the restoration of Partnership.



MERRY MEADOWS

BA-109



PARTNERSHIP

BA-110

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

B7-109 B7-110  
MERRY MEADOWS & PARTNERSHIP

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
___PREHISTORIC	___ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	___COMMUNITY PLANNING	___LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	___RELIGION	
___1400-1499	___ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	___CONSERVATION	___LAW	___SCIENCE	
___1500-1599	___AGRICULTURE	___ECONOMICS	___LITERATURE	___SCULPTURE	
___1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	___EDUCATION	___MILITARY	___SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
X1700-1799	___ART	___ENGINEERING	___MUSIC	___THEATER	
___1800-1899	___COMMERCE	XEXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	___PHILOSOPHY	___TRANSPORTATION	
___1900-	___COMMUNICATIONS	___INDUSTRY	___POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	___OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		___INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Merry Meadows (a) is a Baltimore County frame house that may have started with an 18th Century core and was enlarged in each of the following two centuries. Partnership (b) is a gem-like restored 18th Century brick house rescued from neglect in Howard County and reassembled on Cooper Road. The ground here is part of the 5,000-acre survey called "Blythenia Cambria" ("Blessed Wales"), surveyed for absentee-owner Governor Thomas Bladen in 1700.<sup>1</sup> The house is in the upper northwest corner of that vast tract, whereas the stone dwelling called "Cambria" is in the dead center of the square. Merry Meadows lies within a 430-acre tract sold to Larkin H. Smith on June 2, 1826, by Caleb Goodwin, Thomas B. Dorsey, and Hugh D. Evans. That deed contained parts of the adjoining tracts, Taylor's Purchase Resurveyed and Benjamin's Lot, as well as Blythenia Cambria.<sup>2</sup> Unfortunately, it is difficult to determine how the owners acquired some of the property and it is difficult to identify this parcel in earlier tax lists. The tracts were quite large in the Phoenix-Clynmalira neighborhood in 1798, although the improvements were few and low in value, some probably sub-taxable. The three owners were possibly heirs of William Goodwin, who owned 2,073 acres in the 1798 tax list, a property that contained only log structures, described by the assessor as adjoining the Great Gunpowder Falls and the land of Elijah Merryman (i.e. adjoining the grounds where the ancient-looking Philpot or Rockland house now stands in ruinous condition along Philpot Road).<sup>3</sup>

In 1830, Larkin H. Smith conveyed to Philip Moore.<sup>4</sup> Moore was clerk of the Federal Court and president of the Franklin Bank in Baltimore. Moore contracted in 1832 to sell it to Samuel W. Merryman, but died before executing a deed. Delia Moore, the widow, a resident of the city, sold to Caleb and Wesley Royston, who had acquired Merryman's interest in the place in 1836; the Roystons were substituted as purchasers; by now, the parcel was down to 149 acres.<sup>5</sup>

This property cannot be identified in the 1833 Assessor's Field Book.<sup>6</sup> The 1841 Tax Ledger for District 10 has been lost, although the Hall of Records has the rest of that set.<sup>7</sup> The house of W. Royston was shown on J. C. Sidney's 1850 county map. A transfer book in the Records Management collection in Towson shows that a substantial expenditure was made one or two years before the new value was entered into the records in 1865:

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

(continued)

District 10, 1865  
Additional Assessment  
Frame House \$600 -- Wesley Royston<sup>8</sup>

The same transfer book had charged Wesley Royston with a "New Barn -- \$300" in 1862. The 1865 entry for a new house neatly ties in with traditional information reported by Mrs. Patterson in 1983; she had learned that the farmhouse was enlarged about the time of the Civil War. The tax assessor was probably two years behind the construction date; for example, he added the new Hunter's Mill to the same District 10 pages in 1865, yet the painted date on the mill reads 1863.

Wesley Royston became sole owner and, by his will of 1874, left the place to his son, Wesley A. Royston.<sup>9</sup> The 1877 atlas showed the W. Royston house. Royston sold to Stephen Lee Armacost in 1902.<sup>10</sup> Subsequent owners were:

Milton H. Wilson & wife	1903
John H. Shackelford & wife	1909
Mary E. Shackelford	1912
Eleanor E. Shackelford	1912
Gray DeBaugh	1915
Charles T. DeBaugh & wife	1915
Charles S. & Anna R. Trapp	1921
Charles E. Lintz	1938
Marshall S. Turner, Jr.	1938
William W. & Virginia M. Cooper	1938.

During the ownership of Charles T. DeBaugh, the 1918 Tax Ledger showed 110 acres on a private lane, with

House	17 x 35	\$680
	15 x 18	
Barn	30 x 48	260
Other Bldgs.		420 <sup>11</sup>

William W. Cooper was an employee of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company. He probably would have preferred a career in art, were the depression not in effect when he entered the job market. His natural talents in drawing and woodworking came into play when, in 1963, he learned that a house of 18th Century appearance was about to be demolished in Howard County, a brick cottage on the tract called Partnership.

An article in the Laurel News-Leader by another C & P employee, James C. Wilfong, alerted Mr. Cooper to the availability of the structure which stood on Pindell School Road near Fulton, southwest of Simpsonville.<sup>12</sup>

Thomas Worthington had patented this ground in 1719, and set it aside as a dowry for his daughter, Katherine, who married Major Nicholas Gassoway. The neighborhood was then the hinterland of Anne Arundel County. In his will of 1775, Gassoway left the part of Partnership on

which he resided to his son, Brice John Gassoway. The property passed to James Cox, whose executor in 1851 sold to Hamilton Moore. Hamilton Moore's house and farm were shown on the east side of the road just southwest of Simpsonville in the 1878 Hopkins atlas of Howard County. The Moore family held the house for more than a century. At the time of the 1958 newspaper history, the owner was Moore's granddaughter, Mrs. George Skaggs.

This house, a typical home of a moderately prosperous tobacco farmer, found itself in the way of a subdivision called Mooresfield. It had stood vacant for some time and its colonial design had long before been altered to provide a side-hall floor plan, and the gambrel roof had been raised to add a gable roof, second story, and attic.<sup>13</sup>

The Coopers first saw the house on Washington's Birthday in 1963 and readily believed that the house was ten years older than the nation's first president. The Coopers made a deal with the developer to take the house and demolish its outbuildings. The porch was already a pile of rubble and the chimney was fallen, the interior woodwork mostly missing. Mr. Cooper made measured drawings, numbered the timbers, and had a contractor disassemble the house and move it to Merry Meadows.

Paint flakes found attached to the wood members convinced the Coopers that the interior should be a shade of blue, the exterior trim brown, and they had custom paint blended. The house site yielded pottery shards that suggested which ceramic antiques would be authentic replacements. The plastering was done in a rough style, the surfaces streaked with finger and brush marks. Mr. Cooper built the trestle table for the room he called "the cell." This table was designed to fold up and store away between meals. Mr. Cooper pounded the wood to give it the look of having endured many 18th Century dinners. Within two years from its purchase, the house was featured in a Sun Magazine cover story in June of 1965.<sup>14</sup>

The house was opened for tours on various occasions as a fund raiser for charities. In 1969, the Maryland Center for Public Broadcasting filmed a one-hour drama called Nightmare's Child there. "The house and its locale are exactly what I'd visualized when I wrote the script," said Helen Jean Burn, author of Nightmare's Child.<sup>15</sup>

Mr. Cooper was one of the founders of the Baltimore County Historical Society when it was established in the disused Alms House in 1959. After his death, his daughter, Mrs. Richard Patterson, acquired the property and rented the house to history-conscious tenants. The outlying acreage has been sold.<sup>16</sup>



## NOTES:

1. Patents, Liber LG No. C, f. 689, Hall of Records Annapolis (hereafter cited as HR). Resurveyed in 1746.
2. Baltimore City Deeds, WG 181:44. Dorsey and Evans had purchased all of the 400-acre Benjamin's Lott from the heirs of James Govane in 1811, Deeds WG 111:58.
3. Federal Direct Tax List, Mine Run and Gunpowder Hundreds. Entries 1727, 1798, 1552. Microfilm owned by LPC.
4. Baltimore City Deeds, WG 205:4.
5. Baltimore City Deeds, TK 257:53. Obit., Baltimore American, April 29, 1834.
6. Assessor's Field Book, Old District 5, 1833, HR No. 8244-4-40-5.
7. County Commissioners' Shelf List, Baltimore County, H.R.
8. Transfer Book No. 2, 1853--, District 10, 1865, f. 12, Records Management Office, Record Center No. 4, Towson.
9. B.C. Wills, Towson, BWA 10:24.
10. B.C. Deeds, Towson, NBM 259:447.
11. B.C. Tax Ledger, District 10-11, 1918, f. 65.
12. James C. Wilfong, "Nearby Landmark Faces Destruction," Laurel News-Leader, February 28, 1963.
13. Mrs. Clifford F. Shaw, "Two Eighteenth Century Cottages Subject of Latest Article On Old Homes in Howard," Ellicott City Times, April 20, 1958.
14. Anne Louise Hitch, "A Home of 1720 Restored as a Museum," Sun Magazine, June 8, 1965. The magazine bears no date because of a newspaper strike; it was printed for distribution on May 2.
15. "Centuries Old House to Be Featured on TV," Message Register, C. & P. Telephone Company, July 1969, p. 6.
16. B.C. Plat Books, EHK JR. 40:47. Tax Map 35, P312, Lots 2, 3.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**BA-109  
MERRY MEADOWS & PARTNERSHIP

BA-110

Anne Louise Hitch, "A Home of 1720 Restored as a Museum,"  
Sun Magazine, June 8, 1965.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5.841**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

361.80 ft. road frontage by maximum depth of 716.74 feet. See Plat  
Book EKH JR., 40:47 (1976), Lots 2, 3.

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

None  
STATENone  
COUNTY**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

John W. McGrain, Executive Secretary

ORGANIZATION

Office of Planning and Zoning

STREET &amp; NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

DATE

August 13, 1984

TELEPHONE

494-3521

STATE

Maryland 21204

Maryland  
Baltimore County  
District X  
Cooper Road, near Paper Mill Road

BA-109  
Merry Meadows

333 1255 74

1820

Frame house on land that was originally a part of  
Blythenia-Cambria. Original house added to, about  
1865. Old Smoke House now restored as a small personal  
museum of Early Americana.

(First HABS Report)  
E. Frances Offutt  
HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE  
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July 29, 1965

Maryland  
Baltimore County  
District X

BA-110  
Partnership

Cooper Road, located on Cooper  
farm, Merry Meadows

1720

An early eighteenth-century brick house built originally  
by Thomas Worthington for his daughter, in Howard County.  
Careful, authentic restoration, at its present location,  
in 1963, by Mr. & Mrs. W. W. Cooper.

Now a museum of Early Americana.

color slides

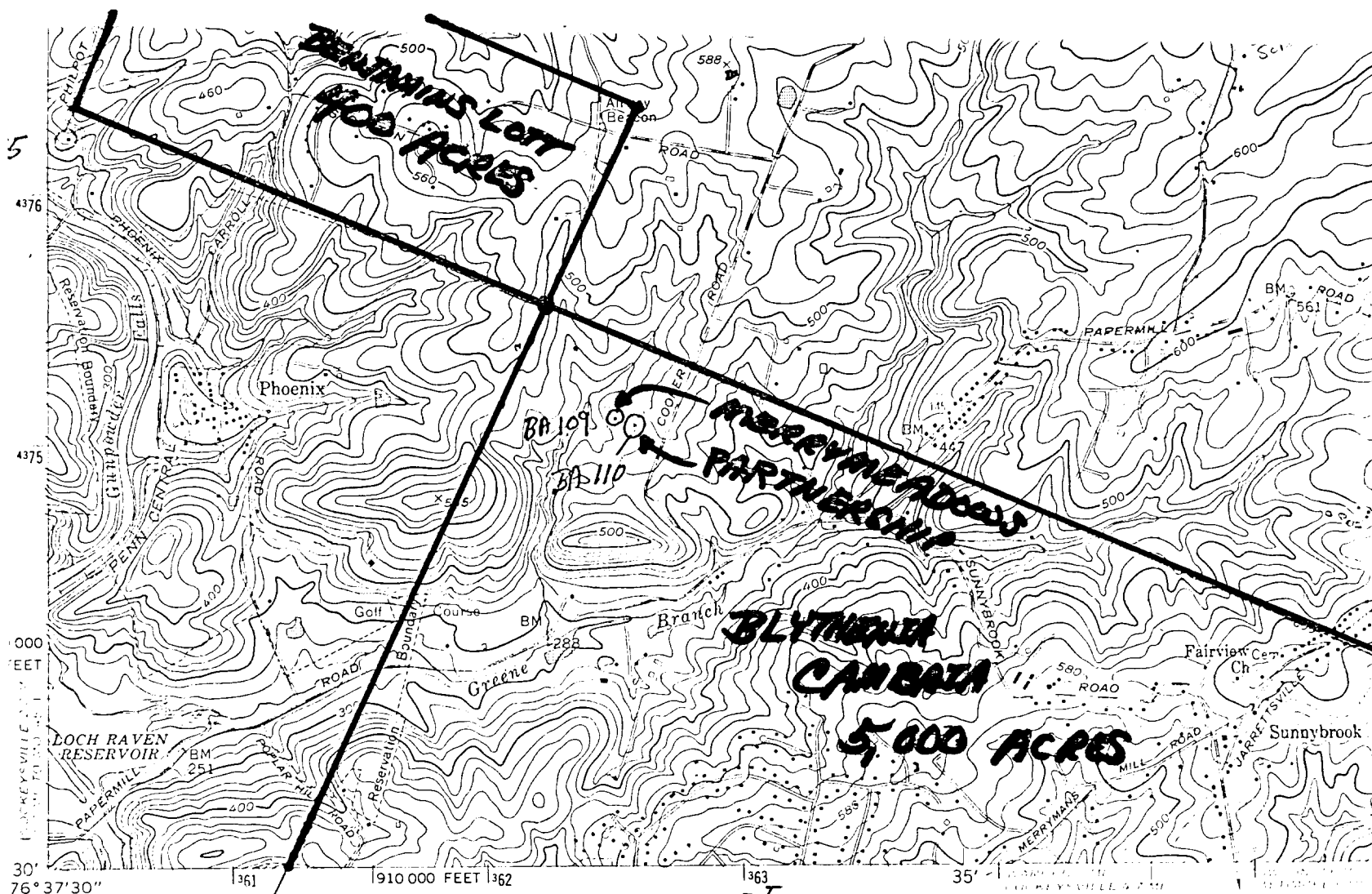
(First HABS Report)  
E. Frances Offutt  
HABS COMMITTEE OF BALTIMORE  
COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

July 29, 1965

34104

34110

Section of U.S.G.S. Quad Sheet, "Phoenix."

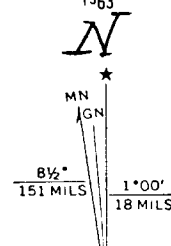


Mapped by the Army Map Service  
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USSCS

Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs  
taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944  
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum



CONTOUR 11  
NATIONAL GEODETIC



BA-110 Partnership

Nicholas Gassway House  
(1963)

(Cooper)

This photo taken during the dismantling  
of old house in Howard Co. Md.  
before being moved to Bacto. Co.





Great Room Fireplace  
(original)

1963

BA-110 Partnership



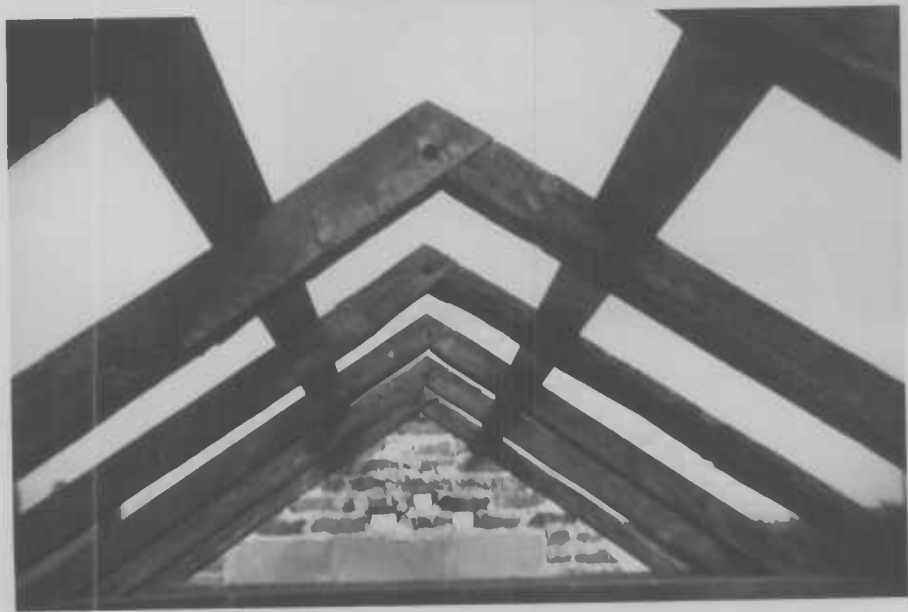


BA-110 Partnership

Nilsen January

1963

fireplaces in "great room" and  
in bedroom above as seen  
during dismantling.



Roof construction as "Partnership"  
was being rebuilt in Batts Co.





BA-110  
Partnership (1964-1965)

9/1965

KODACOLOR PRINT

Made by

Kodak

SEPT. 65R





BA-110  
Partnership (reconstruction)  
Side view - showing  
gambrel roof & chimney

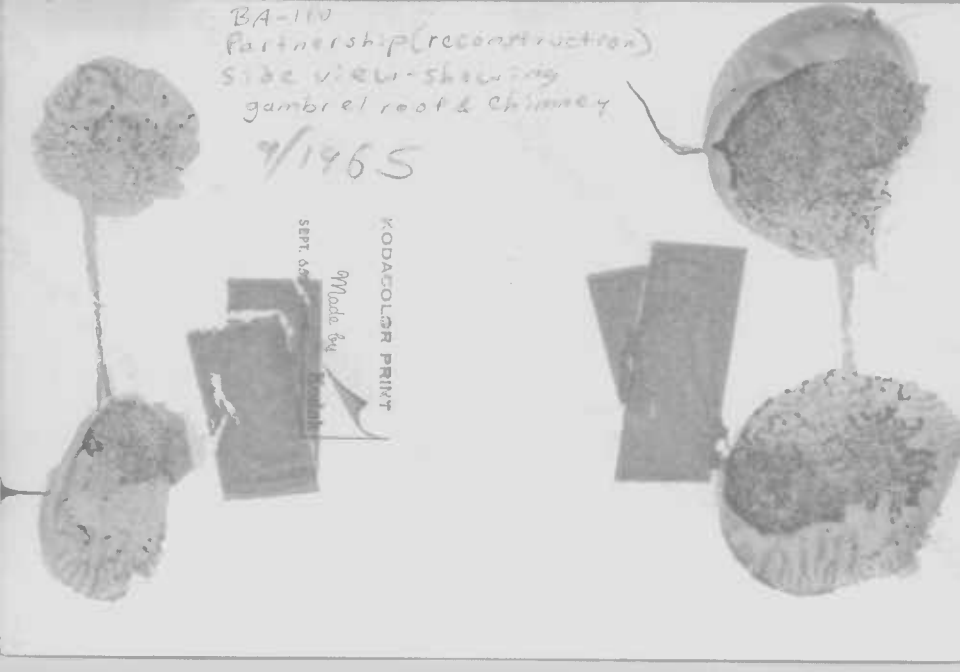
9/1965

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SEPT. 65

Printed



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BA-109

AND

BA-110